



Pillsbury  
Winthrop  
Shaw  
Pittman<sup>LLP</sup>

Special Advisory to Broadcasters  
July 2006

## Communications Broadcast Advisory

### Copyright Office Royalty Claims Due July 31

---

**This advisory is directed to television stations with locally-produced programming whose signals were carried by at least one cable system located outside the station's DMA or by a satellite provider which provided service to at least one viewer outside the station's DMA. You are eligible to file royalty claims for compensation with the United States Copyright Office in Washington, DC. These filings are due by July 31, 2006.**

In order to file a cable royalty claim, the television station(s) in question must have locally-produced programming and have had its signal(s) carried as a distant signal by at least one cable system in 2005. Similarly, television stations with locally-produced programming whose signals were carried by at least one satellite carrier for home viewing in 2005 are also eligible to file royalty claims if the satellite carrier transmitted the station's signal outside the station's local market.

Both the cable and satellite claim forms may be filed electronically. The electronic forms are available online at [www.loc.gov/crb/cable/joint.html](http://www.loc.gov/crb/cable/joint.html). To submit online, follow the instructions on the forms available at that site. You will be required to supply the name and address information for the claimant and the copyright owner, to provide a general statement as to the nature of the copyrighted work (i.e., local news, sports broadcasts, specials and other station-produced programming), and provide at least one example of a secondary retransmission. For cable claims, you will be required to supply the name of the program; the station, city and state of license, and date of a transmission; and the name and location of a cable system that retransmitted the station on a distant basis (outside the station's DMA). For each satellite secondary transmission you identify, you will need to supply the name of the program; the station, city and state of license, one date on which the program was retransmitted; and the name of a satellite carrier that retransmitted that transmission to subscribers located outside the station's local market on that date.

Under the federal Copyright Act, cable systems and satellite operators must pay "compulsory license" royalties to carry TV signals on their systems. Ultimately, the Copyright Royalty Board divides the royalties among those copyright owners who claim shares of the royalty fund. The annual royalty fund for cable exceeds \$100

million, and the annual royalty fund for satellite exceeds \$60 million. Stations that do not file claims by the deadline will not be able to collect royalties for carriage of their signal during 2005.

**Live Link**

Joint Claim for Cable Retransmission Royalty Fees 2005

---

**For further information, please contact:**

**Editors:**

Richard R. Zaragoza **(bio)**  
Washington, DC  
+1.202.663.8266  
richard.zaragoza@pillsburylaw.com

Clifford M. Harrington **(bio)**  
Washington, DC  
+1.202.663.8525  
clifford.harrington@pillsburylaw.com

This publication is issued periodically to keep Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP clients and other interested parties informed of current legal developments that may affect or otherwise be of interest to them. The comments contained herein do not constitute legal opinion and should not be regarded as a substitute for legal advice.  
© 2006 Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP. All Rights Reserved.

---